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LEAHY DEFENDS CIA
MONTPELIER VT

Q Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., says he supports the U.S. government's position that an American-manned cargo plane shot down over Nicaragua was not on a mission for the CIA.

The Nicaraguan government charged Tuesday the plane was en route to aid Contra rebels when Nicaraguan troops are said to have shot it down.

Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and an opponent of U.S. involvement in Central America, says it doesn't make sense for the CIA to cover up their involvement because the true story would eventually emerge.

Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, made the comment following a meeting he said he had with CIA representatives.